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ARFF Marines battle blazes

PFC. AUSTIN GOACHER
Combat Correspondent

As the sun began to peer over the hills of East Miramar, Marines with Aircraft, Rescue and Firefighting, or ARFF, went to work against a towering inferno that leaped into the morning sky May 15 for a routine training exercise involving fuel fires.

ARFF Marines used the fire to further refine their skills and confidence in all possible situations.

At a simulated crash site, or 'the pit,' along the air station's flight line, the crash crewmen attacked the fire erupting from the body of an aircraft. Two teams, consisting of two Marines, assaulted the fire with one team on either side. After the teams worked together to put the fire out, the Marines passed their hoses to the next team.

"We use the pit to train for fuel fires because at a real crash site, one of the largest hazards is the fuel left in the aircraft," said Cpl. Joe Allegra, a crew chief with ARFF. "Our fire was small in comparison to what a crash site could be like."

The fire helped to improve younger Marines' abilities as a member of ARFF, while keeping them in a controlled environment.

"We ensure they use proper techniques, but it's also a way to build their confidence," said Allegra. "The amount of fuel used to create the fire allows us to control the size of the flames."

The training shows how the fire really reacts, explained Lance Cpl.

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Lance Cpl. Bryon Siefert, a utilities engineer with Bravo Detachment, Marine Air Control Squadron 1, Marine Air Control Group 38, leads his fellow Marines in a tug-o-war competition against Marine Wing Support Squadron 373, Marine Wing Support Group 37, during the health, fitness and safety fair at the air station May 17.

MCCS kicks off summer with health, fitness fair

LANCE CPL. GEORGE J. PAPAISTRAT
Combat Correspondent

The air station hosted a health, fitness and safety fair near the Miramar Sports Complex May 17 for Marines and sailors here sponsored by Semper Fit.

Hundreds of Marines and sailors gathered at the complex to participate in the day of fun.

To raise awareness about health fitness, the fair offered various information booths with hands-on education to all Marines and sailors.

The dozens of booths had

displays, screenings and giveaways to show Marines the meaning of a healthy and safe summer.

There were also demonstrations, classes and competitions.

"This is a great opportunity to provide awareness and educate the Marines," said Anne Panattoni, Semper fit director here. "The Marines also had a chance to participate in various competitions to win money for their unit's recreational funds."

The fair's slogan, "Step It Up," also helped bring Marines' awareness to the month of May, as the National Health and Fitness Month.

Throughout the morning and afternoon, station Marines and sailors competed in tug-o-war, climbed a rock wall, and participated in a cadence and tire-changing competition.

Marine Air Control Group 38, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, used the health and safety fair as an opportunity to brief their Marines on the 101 Days of Summer safety campaign, explained Capt. Fernando Blackburn, director of safety and standardization for MACG-38.

Instead of having the Marines sit through a power point presen-

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VMFA-134 takes last trip together

LANCE CPL. GEORGE J. PAPAISTRAT
Combat Correspondent

A station-based F/A-18 Hornet squadron flew from the air station Saturday to Marine Corps Base Hawaii for their final detachment prior to garnishing their squadron's flag in August of this year.

Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 134, Marine Aircraft Group 46, 4th Marine Aircraft Wing, or the "Smokes," concludes their 64-year legacy as a Marine squadron upon completion of this training, added Thompson. The squadron will remain in cadre status, which is a group of trained personnel able to assume control and train others, if they are needed in the next few years.

The Smokes deployed to train in close air support with the 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division.

"We will deploy for two weeks for the training missions," said Sgt. Erin Thompson, the operations chief with the squadron.

As for the aircraft and personnel of the Smokes, they will be transferred to various squadrons depending on the needs of the Marine Corps.

VMFA-134 consists of active duty and reserve Marines and sailors; however, the majority of them are reserve, explained Thompson.

The Smokes, which originated in Santa Barbara, Calif., as a Marine bombing squadron, have

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MCAS Web site

Want to know all the buzz, then check out the Flight Jacket on-line.

www.miramar.usmc.mil



911 FROM THE SKY

The history and development of medical and casualty evacuations. For full story, see pages 8 and 9.

"A MESSAGE TO GARCIA"

Obedience and dedication principles revealed in old novel. For full story, see page 2.

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Warrior ethos unveiled in “A Message to Garcia”

Commentary by
CPL. BRANDON L. ROACH
Consolidated Public Affairs Officers

“A Message to Garcia” is a grammatical nightmare with punctuation errors found in every other sentence, which would make anyone with a high school or equivalent education want to bash their head into a wall while trying to struggle through it.

Aside from the errors in the words and structure found by an amateur military journalist, there is a very sincere point and lesson to be learned from the pre-twentieth century writing.

The story starts out telling of a military general who is in Cuba and nobody, not even the president of the United States, can get word to him.

“The mission should you choose to accept it is to deliver a letter to Garcia,” were the words stated to a man who goes by the name of Rowan.

Without question Rowan takes this letter and delivers it to Gen. Garcia. He doesn’t even ask where to begin looking.

Mission completed with no questions asked, even after tracking down Garcia to the “middle of nowhere” Cuba.

“What is the point of this story?” I began to ask myself, still forging through the punctuation errors. Then half-way through, it hit me like a ton of bricks.

“You are sitting now in your office – six clerks are within your call. Summon any one and make this request: ‘Please look in the encyclopedia and make a brief memorandum for me concerning the life of Corregio,’ said Elbert Hubbard, author of “A Message to Garcia.” “Will the clerk quietly say, ‘Yes, sir,’ and go do the task? On your life, he will not.”

Then the questions come. Why me? Well, where can I get the information? Why can’t someone else, or the ever-popular, why don’t you do it yourself?

What happened to just shutting up and getting the job done? Here is your answer.



Cpl. Brandon L. Roach

It is the nature of man to question everything presented to us. How was life created? Where does air come from? How do we travel to the stars in the sky? Why do we have to do things without explanation?

These words do flow all too often from the mouth of man, but only because our curiosity has helped us thrive in life, giving us new technology and information.

However, it has also been the demise of many institutions and ideas.

The United States Marine Corps has thrived for centuries on troops not questioning orders and getting the job done. Since conception, Marines have followed orders without question, putting their bodies, minds and lives on the line to make the machine work.

If one Marine starts arguing an order given by either a senior enlisted or officer, the machine breaks down.

The phrase “Carry a letter to Garcia” is referred to throughout the reading. With careful thought and attention to the words, one can find out why the Commandant of the Marine Corps has kept it on the top of his reading list for many years. “Carry a letter to Garcia” refers to “the mission.”

Whatever the mission is, it needs to get done without question.

If the local burger flipper at your favorite fast-food restaurant didn’t flip burgers right, he wouldn’t have a job.

If a Marine’s mission is not completed timely and properly, it affects the Marines on his left and right.

The reason military leaders look to “A Message to Garcia” as a way to make a point to their troops is because the story, although rough around the

edges, tells us that we have a job to do.

Without our discipline, our attention to detail and our instant willingness and obedience to orders, the mission and the lives of our fellow service members may be put in jeopardy.

Whether the task is small and does not make sense or large and impressive on ourselves and our career, there is always a point, and with the leadership that the Marine Corps has appointed over us to make these decisions means that we need to trust their orders and decisions.

The hardest part is yet to come, which is the larger responsibility of the junior troops to carry out all orders without question to ensure mission accomplishment.

Hard as that may be to swallow, that is the way this machine works and the way that it has worked for hundreds of years. And for the United States Marine Corps to continue to be the premier fighting force in the world, every Marine needs to understand the vital role they play. Even if we are faced with daunting tasks, we must trust our leaders.

**Editor’s note: Cpl. Brandon L. Roach is a combat correspondent with the Consolidated Public Affairs Office.*

Religious Services

The Chaplain’s Office, located in building 5632 on Bauer Road, coordinates the regularly scheduled services. For the location and meeting schedules of religious activities, contact the Chaplain’s Office at 858-577-1333, or visit www.miramar.usmc.mil.

Sunday:

- 9 a.m. Protestant Worship Service
- 9:30 a.m. Protestant Children’s Worship
- 11 a.m. Roman Catholic Eucharist

Religious Education/Sunday:

- 9:30 - 10:45 a.m. Catholic CCD Children K-12
- 10 a.m. Protestant Adult Bible Study
- Wednesday 6 - 7 p.m. Baptist Service

Weekday Worship Service:

- Monday-Friday 11:30 a.m. Catholic Mass
- Monday 6:30 p.m. Contemporary Praise and Worship Service
- Wednesday 7 p.m. Baptist Service

Islamic Worship Service:

- Islamic Center of San Diego 858-278-5240
- www.icsd.org

Jewish:

- Jewish Outreach at 858-571-3444
- www.jewishinsandiego.org

Sempertoons

by Gunnery Sgt. Charles Wolf

“Ohh Yeah....,
It’s definitely MONDAY!”



Miramar motorcycle club takes safety day, drive



Lance Cpl. Freddie Coleman

Motorcyclists from Marine Corps Air Station Miramar's Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron Motorcycle Club ride to promote Motorcycle Safety Day and Ride here Friday. This was the first official function for the newly organized club. Designed to increase motorcycle safety, the ride began with a safety class at the Bob Hope Theater here at 9 a.m. Then the motorcyclists took to the roads and drove to Ramona, Calif. After arriving at their destination, the 12 riders took a short break, ate chow, discussed things learned from the ride and returned to the air station. The motorcycle club meets quarterly for motorcycle safety events and classes.

Marine earns Bronze Star

Lt. Col. Biagio Colandreo Jr., staff secretary to the Commanding General of 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, received a Bronze Star in an awards ceremony here Thursday. Colandreo earned the medal for assisting Multi-National Forces-West with mission accomplishment as the commanding officer of Marine Light Attack Squadron 169, Marine Aircraft Group 16, during Operation Iraqi Freedom from March 27 to October 23, 2006.



Lance Cpl. Freddie Coleman



Plc. Austin Goocher

Cpl. Anthony Rodriguez, an ARFF crewman, guides Lance Cpl. Raul Peralta, a new crewman with ARFF, away from a fuel fire at the air station May 15. Peralta continued to fight the fire even while being pulled away after their team was called back to begin the exercise again. The fire allowed ARFF Marines to sharpen their skills while building their confidence.

ARFF,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Jose Negreti, an ARFF crewman.

“We learn something new every-day,” said Lance Cpl. Warren Crawford, an ARFF crewman. “The pit is where we do our live-fire training, but we also do other training such as wet runs, which are the same thing without the fire, and tower runs, which simulate performing a rescue in a high-rise building.”

While some of the Marines here new to ARFF, the experienced Marines used the training to improve their abilities and learn new techniques.

“The training is important so we know how to save the lives of the crash victims as well as realizing how to protect ourselves while doing our job,” said Allegra. “We have to be anywhere on the airfield within three minutes and in our gear ready to go. This makes sure we can handle what we are getting into.”

According to Crawford, the crash crew, after dousing the final flame, left the scene of the crash confident in their ability to extinguish fires aboard the station.

VMFA-134,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

served in almost every war and operation since their birth in May 1943.

Upon their return home, the squadron will begin preparing for its retirement ceremony and final decommission, scheduled to take place in August.

New leader takes helm of MTACS-38

PFC. AUTSIN GOACHER

Combat Correspondent

Lt. Col. Jeffrey Davis, the commanding officer of Marine Tactical Air Command Squadron

38, Marine Air Control Group 38, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, relinquished his command to Lt. Col. Dominic Grasso during

a ceremony May 24 at the Station Parade Deck.

Grasso came to MTACS-38 from Headquarters Marine Corps, Deputy

Commandant for Aviation, Air Command and Control, where he served as the air traffic control action officer and

several other billets.

Grasso's personal awards include a Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with gold star, and a Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal.

Davis is slated to attend Marine Corps War College at the Marine Corps University, Quantico, Va.

Davis' personal awards include a Bronze Star Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with a combat distinguishing device and two gold stars, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with one gold star, and a Combat Action Ribbon.

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Lt. Col. Dominic Grasso



Lt. Col. Jeffrey Davis

Staying safe through Memorial Day

CPL. KAITLYN SCARBORO-VINKLAREK
 Combat Correspondent

Memorial Day serves as a day for remembrance of the service men and women who have sacrificed their lives for the sanctity of the country. In an effort to re-introduce the meaning of Memorial Day as more than a three-day weekend, Congress asks Americans to dedicate one minute at 3 p.m. local time to the memory of those who have lost their lives in service, on the last Monday of May.

To keep the family members safe from what sometimes turns out as a hectic holiday weekend, officials offer up ideas about child care and traffic safety.

“Don’t drink and drive is a constant concern, but magnified on any holiday,” said Brad Baehr, California Highway Patrol officer. “Bad things tend to happen when alcohol is involved. Think about your means of transportation before you consume alcohol; designate a driver, get a taxi, use public

transportation. Nothing’s wrong with participating as long as you’ve organized another way to get home, that doesn’t involve driving.”

The California Highway Patrol prepares for drunk drivers and over-occupied roads during Memorial Day weekend, but encourages civilians to report anything they find suspicious. A driver can report a drunk driver by calling 911 and providing the location, make and model of car and license plate number.

Baehr also warns drivers to be patient on the freeways and near tourist attractions, explaining the holiday will bring additional drivers on the roads, many of whom are unfamiliar with local laws.

For families planning to spend the day out and about, there are many more things to be concerned about than crowded roads and long lines at the amusement parks.

Health care providers reiterate the importance of hydration for those who plan to spend the weekend in the sun.

Josie Mendoza, a registered nurse with the

Family Practice Clinic here, suggested many ways to protect yourself from the dangers of the sun and wildlife during the weekend.

Make sure children drink as much water and fluids as they can with as little sugar as possible.

Mendoza warned that signs of dehydration in children include: dry, sticky mouth, no tears when crying and no wet diapers for six to eight hours for infants and 12 hours for toddlers.

“If any of these things happen, the adult needs to go to the emergency room as quickly as possible if there is no medical staff available at the event,” explained Mendoza.

Mendoza also suggested researching various treatments for wildlife bites or stings that may harm children or adults when playing at the beach or park.

For things to do inside the home with the children, the Veteran Affairs Web site provides a page dedicated to the entertainment and education of children of all ages at www.va.gov/kids.



Cpl. Kaitlyn Scarboro-Vinklarek
 During the upcoming Memorial Day weekend, the California Highway Patrol warns drivers of the increased traffic roadways in Southern California will exhibit.

Al Qaim medical facility receives upgrade

CPL. ANDREW KALWITZ

Combat Correspondent

2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward)

AL QAIM, Iraq (May 21, 2007) —

The Health Service Support Element, or HSSE, of Detachment 2, Combat Logistics Battalion 2, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward), upgraded its capabilities to support the increased operational tempo of 1st Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment.

Eight sailors of the Forward Resuscitative Surgical Suite, or FRSS, from Al Taqaddum, Iraq, enabled the upgrade by bringing the necessary equipment and expertise to temporarily provide surgical capabilities.

“Normally, we don’t have a surgeon around and if a patient needs surgery, we have to medically evacuate them,” said Navy Seaman Gabriel D. Florez, a hospi-



AL QAIM, Iraq — Sailors at the HSSE here treat a patient during a mass casualty exercise. The exercises occur twice a week, but this was the first conducted with the FRSS from Al Taqaddum, Iraq. talman with the HSSE.

The FRSS arrived here May 12 and has already had an effect on the HSSE.

During one of the facility’s bi-weekly mass casualty drills May 14, the presence of the FRSS enabled the treatment of patients rather than enacting a rush to fly

them to Al Asad, Iraq, for surgery.

“The time it takes to fly from here to Al Asad is anywhere from 40 minutes to an hour,” said Navy Lt. Cmdr. Angela S. Earley, a trauma surgeon from Al Taqaddum Surgical Detachment. “That could be the difference between life and death.”

Earley and other members of the FRSS have had an opportunity to trade advice and share experiences with the 18 service members at the HSSE. She said she hopes both teams continue to learn from each other until the FRSS returns to Al Taqaddum.

“I wish we could keep them here longer,” said Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Candee Bost, a hospital corpsman with the HSSE and a Statesville, N.C., native. “They give great feedback. It’s better for us to hear what the (operating room’s) side of the house has to say.”

Navy Chief Petty Officer Mary D. Weiss-Brandenburg, a hospital corpsman and the senior-enlisted leader with the HSSE, agreed with Bost and went on to explain the significance of understanding things from a surgeon’s point-of-view.

“We try to anticipate what the surgeons are going to be looking for when they’re flown to a higher-level medical facility,” he said.

Weiss-Brandenburg explained this will be important to learn before the HSSE no longer has the FRSS and their surgical capabilities.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Robert M. Beal, an advanced laboratory technician with the HSSE, said he is certain the capabilities will be beneficial while they’re present.

“We hope we never have to use it,” he said. “But if we do, I’m more than confident that we’re ready.”

SIRENS NOT REQUIRED

CASEVACs, MEDEVACs evolution as life saver

LANCE CPL. GEORGE J. PAPASTRAT
Combat Correspondent

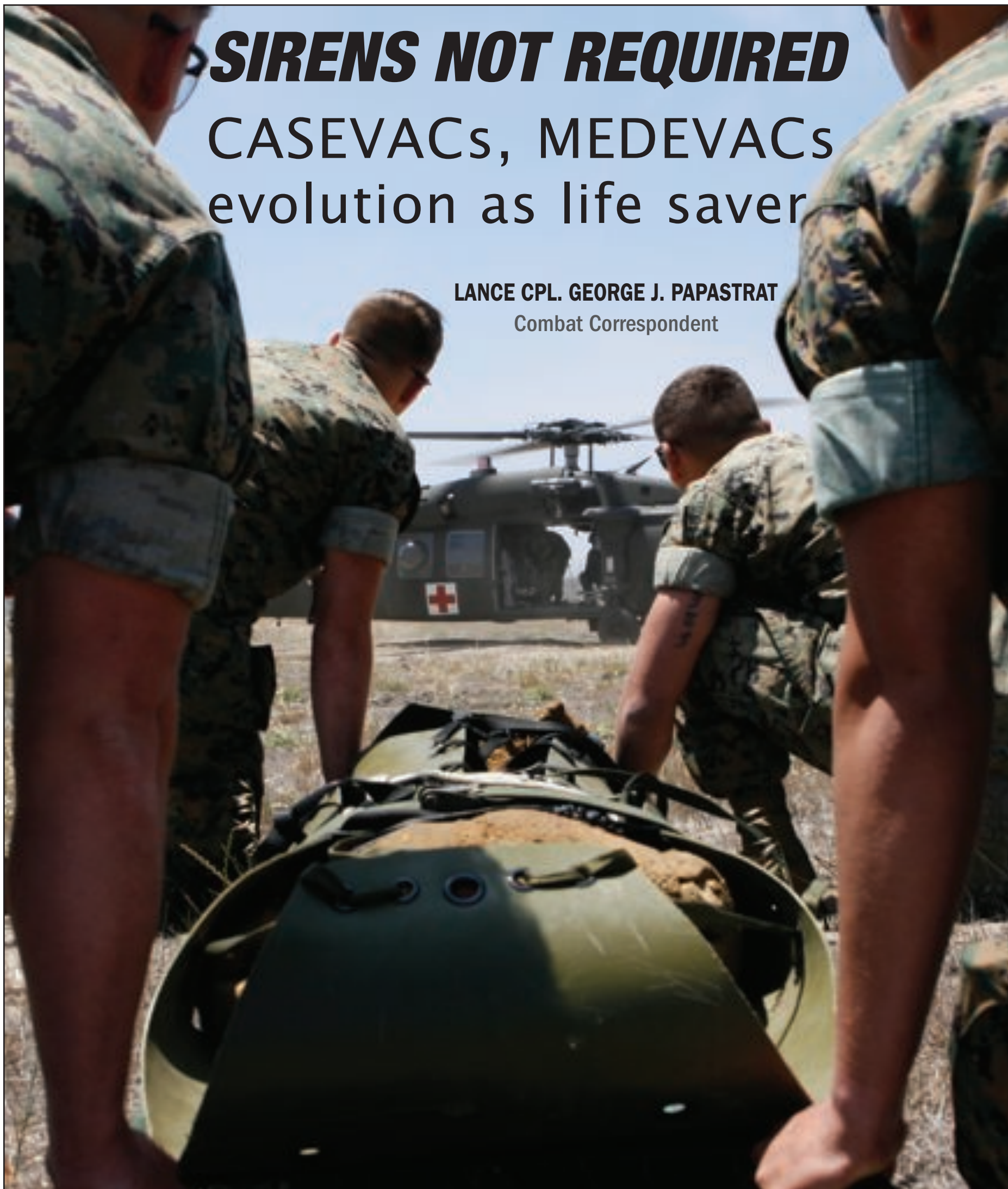


Photo by Lance Cpl. George J. Papastrat



Photo by Lance Cpl. George J. Papastrat

Marines with 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines Regiment, 1st Marine Division, load "dead Fred", a simulated victim, onto a HH-60L Blackhawk MEDEVAC helicopter at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., May 10. The Marines worked with the California Army National Guard's Charlie Company, 168th General Support Aviation Battalions medics and pilots to become familiar with the process of conducting a MEDEVAC.

Dust kicks into the air as a medical helicopter lands 30 paces from a group of Marines anxiously waiting to get their wounded on the medical evacuation, or MEDEVAC, flight and hoping it's not too late.

Every second becomes a critical moment during a medical emergency as less than one minute could depict whether a Marine lives or dies.

Service members today face an enemy who they cannot see, who use weapons such as improvised explosive devices, or IEDs, which is just one threat they might encounter while deployed to a combat zone.

With the risk of being injured in the open or on a military convoy, the quicker the Marine can be removed from the situation and treated, the higher chance of survival.

Last year while 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing was deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, about 2,400 casualty evacuations, or CASEVACs, and MEDEVACs took place — an average of more than six per day.

According to Petty Officer 1st Class Frederick Schucht, a CASEVAC Corpsman with Marine Aircraft Group 16, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, a CASEVAC is the transportation of an injured service member from the point of injury to a medical facility, and a MEDEVAC transports the patient to and from various medical facilities.

Historically, Frenchman Dominique Jean Larrey attempted to develop a horse-drawn buggy to remove casualties from the battle field. It was soon noted they had a better chance of survival.

As war progressed on through World War I and

World War II, thousands of service members received life-threatening injuries. A medic was called to the front line where they removed the injured, carried them back with a stretcher and then drove them to an aid station by vehicle. They received shots of morphine to ease the pain and were systematically moved from one hospital to another until they could either rejoin the fight or be sent home.

Years following the Asian and European battles of World War II, technology and warfighting continued to advance.

On through the Korean and Vietnam Wars, helicopters soon came into use as gunships and medical transports.

Today, the length of time it takes a CASEVAC helicopter to fly into a landing zone, pack up the patient and head to a medical facility is faster than

ever before.

"They play an important role in today's war," said Schucht. "They get the injured out in a quicker manner."

"This increases the chance of survival," he added. "Forces forward know the importance of CASEVACs and MEDEVACs, which is why we train together."

Currently in Iraq, not only American military service members are evacuated with this system, but Iraqis, too.

The U.S. military also uses MEDEVACs and CASEVACs for humanitarian missions, as well.

From the morphine injections of World War II to the first helicopter lift of the Vietnam War, no lights flash or sirens blare when military medical personnel perform their evacuations. There is just a simple red cross painted on the side of an aircraft streaking across the sky, saving the life of another brother in arms.



Photo by Lance Cpl. George J. Papastrat

Cpl. Sergio Zacarias, an infantryman with 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines Regiment, 1st Marine Division, calls a MEDEVAC helicopter May 10 during a training mission at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Miramar Marine gives back to the country that gave him everything

LANCE CPL. GEORGE J. PAPASTRAT
Combat Correspondent

People join the Marine Corps for various reasons, but an India native, who moved to the U.S. for a better life, joined the Marines for one reason: to give back to his new country.

Cpl. Dhaval Patel, an aviation information systems specialist with Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 16, moved to the U.S. at the age of 11 from India with his family to experience the freedom of America.

"We moved to America to give a better future to our son," said Sudhir Patel, Cpl. Patel's father. "He is our only child, and we wanted to make sure he had an opportunity to live his dreams.

"We knew it would help him if we moved to America. It definitely was a good choice since today he is doing well with the path he has chosen in life."

They left India to give Patel the opportunities in life such as getting a job and a decent education — something their family would have struggled to provide, explained Sudhir.

While growing up in India, Patel led a simple life, he explained. He played with his friends, went to school and studied.

"We did not have a car either," said Patel. "My dad went to work on a bike a few miles away, I only had sat in a car a few times up till then in my life."

Packing up and flying across the world was no easy transition for the 11-year-old, but it wasn't long until he was playing basketball in New Jersey. He then started school at Parsippany Hills High, Parsippany, N.J.

During his time off, Patel found himself working as a bus boy at a local restaurant.

Upon his graduation, Patel

decided to attend college at Rutgers University to study computer engineering, but began to yearn for something more and started to see the military as an option.

For one semester in college, he participated in the Army Reserve Officer Training Corps and enjoyed it, explained Patel.

However, Patel realized the price of college superseded his budget at the time, so he used government loans to help pave his way to the future.

"At that point in my life I wanted to finish college. My focus was on college first, and then think about the military, a possible way to pay back college loans."

During Patel's college career, he met Marine recruiters on campus and experienced his first helicopter ride at a campus recruiting event.

On a job hunt after college, Patel looked through various

military career choices and discovered he could do computer related work in the military.

Looking through various military career choices on Web sites and speaking with recruiters, Patel made his decision to join the Marine Corps.

"The helicopter ride (in college) might have swayed me a little toward the Marines," he said. "I also wanted to give back because I wouldn't have graduated from college without all the scholarships, grants and loans I got from the government."

Patel soon discovered it would also help his career since he intended to work for the government in the future. Working



Cpl. Dhaval Patel

with computers in the military allowed him to use his experience from college and learn more on the technological aspects of the information technology world.

Furthermore, it would also give Patel the opportunity to travel and provide a memorable experience.

"I joined with a plan of staying only for my first enlistment," said the 26-year-old Patel. "When I am finished with the five years, I plan on working for the government.

"It has been a great experience this far. I am doing what I want to do. Obviously you just can't jump the rungs of the ladder and start at the top. I am learning and experiencing something similar to what a person in the civilian sector doing the same job I do, and at the same time, I'm enjoying the camaraderie that I would not experience anywhere else."

Two seats are better than one

LANCE CPL. FREDDIE COLEMAN
Combat Correspondent

Since the McDonnell Douglas F/A-18A Hornet took to the skies Nov. 18, 1978, it has proven itself as one of the world's best multi-role aircraft. Today, the F/A-18D Hornet is capable of flying in almost every weather condition known to man, traveling an indefinite distance due to refueling capabilities and carrying the most-advanced weapon systems to date, but the fighter-attack jet wasn't always what it is today.

The first F/A-18A Hornet was a single-seat aircraft in which the pilot had to both navigate and control the aircraft.

In December 1979, the F/A-18B Hornet made its first flight as a two-seater, multi-role training aircraft. The rear cockpit had an identical pilot station in case the main pilot became unable to operate the aircraft.

When the second seat was put in, a part of the main fuel tank was taken away. As a drawback, two-seater models of the Hornet carry approximately 800 gallons less than the single seaters.

But due to the fact that the "A" and "B" models are not missionized, in 1987, McDonnell Douglas ordered a mass upgrade of "A" and "B" model Hornets to the "C" and "D" model.

Both models received upgraded radar systems, avionics and the ability to carry new missiles, like the advanced medium-range air-to-air missile and the Harpoon air-to-surface

missiles.

"The biggest difference is not the weapons it can carry, it's the ability to deploy those weapons much quicker than before than with a one-seater," said Capt. Marcus Yasumatsu, an F/A-18D Hornet pilot with Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron, or VMFA(AW)-242, Marine Aircraft Group 11, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing.

When the "D" model was upgraded, engineers removed the extra pilot station and made the rear of the cockpit for the weapons systems officer, or WSO.

"The WSO is definitely a benefit to have because the extra eyes help the pilot concentrate more on flying the aircraft than opposed to having to fly and work the radar systems," said 1st Lt. Conor Jarvis, a WSO with VMFA(AW)-242.

One of the most difficult missions they can perform involves a forward air controller, or FAC. A FAC is a highly trained person on the ground that guides and directs military aircraft providing air support to troops on the ground.

"Missions like this are definitely more difficult to do in a one seater because the pilot has to coordinate with the FAC and fly the plane. However, with a two seater, FAC missions are done more efficiently because the pilot only has to worry about flying the plane and the WSO can coordinate with the FAC," explained Jarvis.

The F/A-18D also has another variation. The other version of the "D" model Hornet is the reconnaissance variant.



Lance Cpl. Freddie Coleman

Capt. Brian Blomquist, pilot, VMFA(AW)-242, and his weapons systems officer, Lt. Col. Doug Mayer, prepare to take off in their F/A-18D Hornet here May 16.

The reconnaissance variant or F/A-18D (RC) carries the advanced tactical airborne reconnaissance system or ATARS.

"ATARS is basically a reconnaissance system that can go in place of the machine gun in the nose of the plane," explained Yasumatsu. "It can take high resolution digital pictures from more than 2,000 feet and store them on an internal memory card in the ATARS computer. It's just like a digital camera."

This was added to the "D" model to replace the Reconnaissance version of the F-4 Phantom, which was retired in 1996.

Since its first flight on May 6, 1988, the F/A-18D Hornet has proven its dominance as an air-to-air and air-to-ground fighter attack aircraft.

Giving life back to classic cars

LANCE CPL. SCOTT T. MCADAM JR.
Combat Correspondent

Rebuilding, restoring and customizing classic cars is a hobby a lot of Americans enjoy.

Before a Marine commits blood, sweat and tears to a large or small project, there are a few questions he must ask, questions that could be easily answered by a mechanic at any of the auto hobby shops aboard every Marine Corps installation.

"It is important to do your homework," said Mike Young, a mechanic at the station's Auto Hobby Shop and avid car enthusiast. "You have to weigh the value of the finished product versus the cost of the work."

Factors that should be considered before purchasing the car include: the amount of work that will need to be contracted out, the end-goal of the finished product, how much it will be worth when it's finished, parts availability, if there is a car club for that particular model for support, common problems with the car, time and money commitment and if the car can be easily found.

"A lot of people get involved with certain cars because they liked or owned them when they were younger," said Young. "That isn't always the best way to go."

Young's advice for restoring a car for the first time is to start with an easier car. "It may not be your dream car, but if you can find the parts and there is a support system like a car club it's easier and you won't get fed-up or burned out."

Young recommends a 1967 or '68 Mustang Coupe. This model of Mustang has inexpensive parts, no shortage of parts and is a reasonable workload. There are a lot of Mustang car clubs for help with any common problems or pitfalls associated with the model.

According to Young, younger people are usually looking for muscle cars, not only late '60s to early '70s Mustangs, but also Chevelles, Camaros, Barracudas and Trans Ams.

To find potential project cars, look on the Internet, in local publications and auto trader magazines or by word of mouth.

"The Internet is a good place to start, but I wouldn't buy anything I couldn't look at first hand," said Young. "The best thing to do is ask



Lance Cpl. Scott T. McAdam Jr.

Sam Davis, retired sailor and San Diego native, tightens the bolts on the gooseneck on his 427-cubic-inch engine here March 5.

around and look in the local publications."

Young started restoring cars when he was 16-years-old with a Volkswagen Bug citing that Bugs were popular at the time. Today, Young owns a 1937 Ford Sedan he converted into a hot-rod and a 1931 Ford Highboy Roadster he restored and customized.

Young showed his '31 Highboy at the 2007 Grand National Roadster Show in Pomona, Calif., competing for the Most Beautiful Roadster Award last year and won runner-up.

Most of Young's labor on his roadster was done in his garage.

Sam Davis, a retired sailor of 20 years and San Diego native, has been working on a 1969 Chevrolet Camaro for his son the last 2 1/2 years at the auto hobby shop here.

Davis found his '69 Camaro from a friend at work who started the project car only to get preoccupied and let it sit on his lawn for more than a year. Davis has been working on an off-the-frame restoration for the car and modified everything from the engine to the brake system.

For Davis and the many Marines and sailors who don't have their own garage, tools or the know-how, the station's Auto Hobby Shop has most of the equipment, space and mechanics to tackle almost any job.

Restoring and customizing automobiles is a hobby Americans have enjoyed for decades. It just takes money, time and commitment. With men like Young and Davis, it's a hobby to be enjoyed for decades to come.

SAFEFAIR,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tation, the experts manning the booths presented the information firsthand.

"It was a great time," said Cpl. Christopher Calbat, a communications technician with Marine Air Control Squadron 1, MACG-38. "Normally for a safety brief, we would sit in a theater; this seems like a lot more fun."

"There was a lot of participation at the event," added Calbat. "The more you interact, the more you retain."

Blackburn required each Marine from the group to fill out a passport — a piece of paper assigned by each booth — of all the required safety information they gathered from the booths.

This was to ensure they paid attention, added Blackburn.

"This is a great opportunity to get guys out," said Blackburn. "101 Days of Summer is important. It saves lives."

Hundreds of Miramar's Marines and sailors gathered at the complex to participate in the day of fun.

The afternoon ended with the tug-o-war finals and the Marines leaving the fair with the knowledge of how to have clean, safe fun.



Cpl. Weston Dillon, a combat engineer with Marine Wing Support Squadron 373, Marine Wing Support Group 37, races through the drunk driver safety course May 17, during a health, fitness and safety fair here.

101 Days of Summer drug-free challenge

LANCE CPL. GEORGE J. PAPAISTRAT
Combat Correspondent

May 17 kicks off the 101 Days of Summer Illegal Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Campaign sponsored by Semper Fit.

To eliminate illegal drug use and to educate Marines and sailors how to responsibly consume alcohol, the program includes a variety of unit competition, giveaways, entertainment and educational activities to raise awareness of substance abuse.

A 'spirit' point system for each unit participating will determine the top three groups to receive a plaque and cash prize.

The amount of points per event are based on the number of people participating per unit, with bonus points for select events held by Semper Fit.

The starting event, held near the Miramar Sports Complex here, included the health, fitness and safety fair, focusing on the health and fitness issues any

person might have.

Other events scheduled for the 101 Days of Summer include a barracks bash, fish pond run, three-on-three basketball tournament, a sand volleyball tournament, drug-free run and more.

Each black Thursday throughout the drug-free campaign is also a way to earn points for the Marines' unit.

Units that wish to earn bonus points can do so by displaying a unit bulletin board with a clear substance abuse prevention message, create a unit guidon with a message slogan on it, complete a substance abuse training program, and personal advertisement on Marines' shirts, stickers or any creative personal advertisement. The Marines and sailors must be seen by a 101 Days of Summer committee member to earn bonus points.

For more information on unit participation or how to get involved, contact the MCCA health and promotions office at 858-577-7965.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Fri, May 25	Spouses Deployment Support Group, 10 – 11 a.m. or 12 – 1 p.m., LINKS House, 858-437-7841 Wing Night - .35 cent wings, 5 – 8 p.m. DJ “Stick D,” 7 p.m. – 12 a.m., SNCO Club
Sat, May 26	Marine Teen Training, 10:30 am, Miramar Sports Complex, 858-577-4128 50-Meter Pool open for Recreation Swimming, 1 – 6 p.m., 858-577-4137
Sun, May 27	Front Yard BBQ for Single Enlisted Active Duty, 12 p.m., The Great Escape, 858-577-6171 Officers’ Pool open to all hands for Recreation Swimming, 12 – 5 p.m., 858-577-4137 Catch the Indianapolis 500 on the big screen, The Great Escape, 858-577-6171
Mon, May 28	50-Meter Pool open for Recreation Swimming, 12 – 5 p.m., 858-577-4137 Officers’ Pool open to all hands for Recreation Swimming, 12 – 5 p.m., 858-577-4137 Miramar Sports Complex open on Memorial Day, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., 858-577-4128
Tues, May 29	New Parent Support Play Morning, 9:30 – 11 a.m., CDC Park, 858-577-9812 Deployment Support Group for Preschoolers, 2 - 2:45 p.m., Teen Center, 858-437-7841 Deployment Support Group for Grades 3 – 5, 3:15 - 4 p.m., Teen Center, 858-437-7841 Meditation & Mindfulness for Marines, 5 – 6 p.m., Semper Fit Center, 858-577-1331 Taco Tuesday – Two Tacos for \$1.00, 5 – 8 p.m., SNCO Club
Wed, May 30	Marine Teen Training, 6:30 pm, Miramar Sports Complex, 858-577-4128 Deployment Support Group for Preschoolers, 2:30 – 3:15 p.m., Teen Center, 858-437-7841
Thurs, May 31	Deployment Support Group for Grades K – 2, 3:45 – 4:30 p.m., Teen Center, 858-437-7841 Library Children’s Room Toddler Stories “Snakes and Turtles” 11 a.m., 858-577-6316 Dance Night with DJ Music, 7 – 11 p.m., SNCO Club
June 1 – 30	Cycling Incentive Program Le Tour De California begins, Miramar Sports Complex, 858-577-4129
Fri, June 1	Spouses Deployment Support Group, 10 – 11 a.m. or 12 – 1 p.m., LINKS House, 858-437-7841 Wing Night - 35 cent wings, 5 – 8 p.m. DJ “Stick D,” 7 p.m. – 12 a.m., SNCO Club Wine Dinner, 6 p.m., Officers’ Club, 858-577-4808 for reservations
Sat, June 2	Swap Meet, 8 a.m. – 2 p.m., Youth Sports Complex, 858-577-4142 “Hire a Hero! – Hire a Vet!” Seminar, Job & Resource Fair, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., Veterans Museum & Memorial Center, 2115 Park Blvd Balboa Park Marine Teen Training, 10:30 a.m., Miramar Sports Complex, 858-577-4128 Youth Flag Football First Game, Youth and Teen Center, 858-577-6530
June 5 & 6	L.I.N.K.S. Session, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., L.I.N.K.S. House, 858-577-4810 to sign up
Mon, June 4	Deployment Support Group for Grades K – 2, 3:15 – 4 p.m., Teen Center, 858-437-7841 Deployment Support Group for Middle Schoolers, 4:15 – 5 p.m., Teen Center, 858-437-7841
Tues, June 5	New Parent Support Play Morning, 9:30 – 11 a.m., Officers’ Park, 858-577-9812 Deployment Support Group for Preschoolers, 2 - 2:45 p.m., Teen Center, 858-437-7841 Deployment Support Group for Grades 3 – 5, 3:15 - 4 p.m., Teen Center, 858-437-7841 Taco Tuesday – Two Tacos for \$1.00, 5 – 8 p.m., SNCO Club
Fri, June 8	Marine Teen Training, 6:30 p.m., Miramar Sports Complex, 858-577-4128 Military Appreciation Day & Padres Visit, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., ticket office parking lot

*More information on the event is available below.

WE’RE HERE TO SERVE YOU

50-meter and officers’ pool open memorial day weekend

The 50-meter and officers’ pool will be open during Memorial Day weekend for open recreation swimming. Bring your family and enjoy a relaxing day by the swimming pool. For more information about pool hours of operation and our aquatic programs, please visit our webpage at http://mccsmiramar.com/swimming_pools.html or call 858-577-4137.

Cycling Incentive Program — Le Tour De California

From June 1 – 30, the Miramar Sports Complex will host Le Tour de California. The first 50 participants who reach the 250-mile benchmark will receive a jersey with Semper Cycling logo. Water bottles for all participants! One cycling class equals 15 miles; mileage from your work-out on the recumbent and upright bikes counts as well. Ask your cycling instructor or front desk staff to confirm your mileage after each ride. Call 858-577-4129/4128 for more information.

Military appreciation and Padres visit

Navy Federal Credit Union proudly presents Military Appreciation Day on Friday, June 8 from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. in the Parking Lot between NFCU and Marine Mart. This event is for active duty only and will feature free food, music, prize giveaways and special appearances by San Diego Padres players and former WWE World Champion Rey Mysterio. Call 858-577-6365 for more information.

MCX NEWS

MCX Sales

May Travel Month Sale	May 03 — 27
Sight & Sound Sale	May 16 — 28
Memorial Day Clearance Sale	May 23 — 28

Estee Lauder Beautiful Skin Solutions Event

Make your appointment today! Sessions will be held May 31 – June 2 from 10 a.m. — 5 p.m. Call 858-695-7243 or stop by the Estee Lauder counter at your MCX Main Store.

MCX: Open during construction and will be complete this fall

Haven’t visited us lately? Phase 1 is complete with wider aisles, a promenade, customer restrooms and more! We’ve also moved Electronics, Sporting Goods, GNC, Cellular Center, Luggage and the Laundry/Dry Cleaner from the Exchange Annex, for your shopping convenience. The construction will be complete this Fall.

Bob Hope Theater

Fri., May 25	Are We Done Yet? (PG) 6:30 p.m. Reign Over Me (R) 9:00 p.m.
Sat., May 26	Mt. Carmel High School Pilipino Culture Night Doors Open at 6:30 p.m. Show Starts at 7:00 p.m. Tickets: \$6.00 pre-purchase \$9.00 at the door For information, call 858-722-9325
Sun., May 27	Blades of Glory (PG-13) 1:00 p.m. *Shooter 6:30 p.m.
Wed., May 30	Perfect Stranger (R) 6:30 p.m.
Thurs., May 31	Are We Done Yet? (PG) 2:00 p.m. In the Land of Women (PG-13) 6:30 p.m.

*Indicates Last Showing

Heroes on the Harbor

Join Holding Hands San Diego June 15 at 6:30 p.m. aboard the *USS Midway* in downtown San Diego as they host Heroes on the Harbor, an evening to honor service members and raise funds for the Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund. The event will have live music, featuring the Billy Joel Tribute Band, the Corvelles, Married by Elvis and more. For ticket prices and more information, visit www.heroesontheharbor.com or call 858-794-0164.

Pay your debts

All Marines and civilians coming to the Miramar Finance Office to pay debts for missing gear, MGIB top-offs, credit cash deposits, etc., must bring exact cash, money order or certified bank draft. The finance office can’t accept personal checks. Marines coming to pay for missing gear must have the required paperwork from the Consolidated Issue Facility with their commanding officer’s endorsement. For more information, call 858-577-6980.

Miramar Car Show

The seventh annual Miramar Car Show will be held June 16 at the airplane display area near the MCX from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. for a day of fun for everyone. For more information contact Suzi Gold, business development manager, MCCS, at 858-577-8201.

Recruiting opportunities open across East Coast

Recruiting Station Columbia, S.C., Nashville, New York and Harrisburg, Pa., are looking for a few good Marines

from privates to sergeants for permissive temporary additional duty for recruiter’s assistance. This opportunity offers Marines a chance to earn 20 points per referral toward promotion. Sergeants receive a letter of appreciation.

Marines interested in accelerating their promotion, please contact your hometown recruiting station. For further assistance, Marines from South Carolina should call 803-788-8788, Nashville 615-627-1526, New York 516-228-5681 or Pennsylvania 717-770-6637.

Veterans’ Job Fair

The San Diego County Veterans’ seminar, resource, and job fair, will occur June 2 at the Veterans Museum and Memorial Center at Balboa Park. The event will have an opening ceremony, job fair and transition seminar sessions with a lunch in and conclude with a veterans’ legislative issues panel with Congressman Bob Filner and Assemblywoman Lorrie Saldana. For more information, contact Thomas A. Richards at 858-674-0772 or visit their website at www.sduvc.org.